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15 March 2004

Ms. Crystal J. Barnes
Examiner
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

RE: Application Number 09/771,799

Dear Ms Barnes:

Thank you for your consideration regarding patent application 09/771,799. In review of your comments, it is clear that you discovered application inconsistencies. Your efforts are appreciated in discovering these inconsistencies. I trust the amendments enclosed clarify and correct those inconsistencies and are compliant with Code Section 714 of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*.

Again, after review of your comments regarding the application claims, I now have a better understanding of the USPTO requirements. I have reworked the claims for your review. Because I am a practicing mechanical / control engineer, patent law is not an area I consider a specialty and request a meeting with you to discuss the patent application and specifically the claim construction. As circumstances occur, I am temporarily local to the area while overseeing the building a pharmaceutical plant and may be reached at:

(301)963-1719

Please continue to send official correspondence to the address on record.

I have included the Detailed Action Section of the Office Action along with my responses (as set off by text boxes and differing fonts) as Introductory Comments. To address some of the comments, I have included a paper published by The Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society. This paper was awarded co-best paper at the Technology Exposition 2001, Houston, TX for its advancement of process control engineering. I trust these responses along with this paper will aid you in determining patentability of my application.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely

Robert H. Francis PE
President

Enclosures:

- 1 Detailed Action Section of the Office Action – Introductory Comments
- 2 Amendment A: Specifications, Drawings, Claims and Remarks
- 3 Francis, Robert H., "Asymptotic Approach Algorithm" ISA 2001 Technology Update, Volume LVI Part 1, The Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society), Research Triangle Park NC, 2001, Page 111 to 120 along with USPTO form PTO/SB/08B.

*part of
papers*